IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus comprising:

a rotating belt for forming an image, the rotating belt having a Young's modulus; and

an arrangement that is attached to a portion along the rotating belt, the ~~material~~ arrangement having a Young's modulus that is smaller than the Young's modulus of the rotating belt.

2. (Previously Presented) The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the arrangement is a protection seal that protects an edge of the rotating belt from wearing.

3. (Previously Presented) The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the arrangement is a scale that is used to detect an amount of movement of the rotating belt.

4. (Previously Presented) The image forming apparatus according the claim 3, wherein the scale has a width and a length and includes a reflecting part and a non-reflecting part repeatedly disposed along the length of the scale at a predetermined interval.

5. (Previously Presented) The image forming apparatus according the claim 3, wherein the scale has a width and a length and includes a magnetic part and a non-magnetic part repeatedly disposed along the length of the scale at a predetermined interval.

6. (Previously Presented) The image forming apparatus according the claim 1, wherein the Young's modulus of the rotating belt satisfies a relation:

$T/ExLx\alpha \leq 0.03$ [millimeter]

where, T is a tension applied to the rotating belt in [N/mm2], E is the Young's modulus of the rotating belt in [megapascals], L is a maximum image length in [millimeter], and α is a percentage fluctuation in the Young's modulus.

7. (Previously Presented) The image forming apparatus according to claim 3, further comprising:

a driving unit that drives the rotating belt;

a reading unit that reads the scale; and

a control unit that controls the driving unit based on a result of reading of the scale by the reading unit.

8. (Previously Presented) The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the arrangement is a stopper, which prevents the rotating belt from biasing toward an edge side at the time of being driven.

9. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus comprising:

a rotating belt for conveying a medium on which an image is directly transferred, the rotating belt having a Young's modulus; and

an arrangement that is attached to a portion along the rotating belt, the ~~material~~ arrangement having a Young's modulus that is smaller than the Young's modulus of the rotating belt.

10. (Previously Presented) The image forming apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the arrangement is a protection seal that protects an edge of the rotating belt from wearing.

11. (Previously Presented) The image forming apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the arrangement is a scale that is used to detect an amount of movement of the rotating belt.

12. (Currently Amended) The image forming apparatus according ~~the~~ to claim 11, wherein the scale has a width and a length and includes a reflecting part and a non-reflecting part repeatedly disposed along the length of the scale at a predetermined interval.

13. (Currently Amended) The image forming apparatus according ~~the~~ to claim 11, wherein the scale has a width and a length and includes a magnetic part and a non-magnetic part repeatedly disposed along the length of the scale at a predetermined interval.

14. (Currently Amended) The image forming apparatus according ~~the~~ to claim 9, wherein the Young's modulus of the rotating belt satisfies a relation:

$T/ExLx\alpha \leq 0.03$ [millimeter]

where, T is a tension applied to the rotating belt in [N/mm2], E is the Young's modulus of the rotating belt in [megapascals], L is a maximum image length in [millimeter], and α is a percentage fluctuation in the Young's modulus.

15. (Previously Presented) The image forming apparatus according to claim 11, further comprising:

a driving unit that drives the rotating belt;

a reading unit that reads the scale; and

a timing control unit that controls a start timing of an image forming operation based on a result of reading of the reading unit.

16. (Previously Presented) The image forming apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the arrangement is a stopper, which prevents the rotating belt from biasing toward an edge side at the time of being driven.